

'Phir-tur' a reflection on values in the age of materialism

Varun Suthra/TNS

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The Roshan Art Centre, Tangmarg, staged Phir-Thur, a play in Kashmiri, on the second day of the Budshah Theatre Festival organised by the Ensemble Kashmir Theatre Academy (EKTA) in collaboration with the Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages at Abhinav Theatre here today.

Scripted by Gayasuddin Sheikh and directed by Reshi Rashid, the play depicted the perennial belief of all societies that there would always be a tug of war between poverty and progress.

The playwright suggested that growth should not be attained at the cost of virtues. The play shows how in the name of progress priorities are turned around, thus distorting the value-based cultural ethos of Kashmir. The play also showcased the analysis of contemporary society with the social structure of Kashmir for the last 200 years.

The cast of the play included Tariq Ahmad Mir as Asli Kashur, Ghulam Nabi Malla as hotel woul, Showket and Mohammad Ashraf as constables, Shahida Razak as wife of Shaeyir and others. Mir had designed the sets while Rashid was the wardrobe designer and Gayasuddin Sheikh was the stage manager.

Talking to The Tribune, director Rashid said, "Change is no doubt the essence of human evolution, but there are certain issues where change is not admired. Change will not go in the favour of any society when moral values are deteriorated in the name of modernisation. We are not against any positive transition, we just wish to unveil the collapse of the value-based system."

Bhawani Bashir Yasir, Chairman of the EKTA, and organiser of the festival said physical growth in the absence of mental and spiritual development becomes a curse for society and theatre represented the soul of any society."

"We have dedicated the festival to the sovereign king of Kashmir, Sultan Zain-ul-Abideen Aka Budshah, during whose regime the art and culture touched its zenith in the Valley," he revealed.